GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:93
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2007
OPIUM CULTIVATION
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether opium cultivation is on the rise during the last three years in the North East;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the annual production of opium in the country alongwith the quantity of opium diverted to pharmaceutical use and for clandestine purpose;

(d) whether the Government has imposed regulation for regulated production rather than destruction of opium cultivation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of opium destroyed under opium regulations?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) & (b) Licensed opium cultivation in India is carried out only in the three states namely, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. However, illicit cultivation has been detected in some parts of the North-Eastern States. Details of the illicit cultivation destroyed in the North East during the last three years are as under:

State	Illicit cultivation destroyed (in Acre)		
	2005	2006	2007 (upto 31.7.2007)
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	2186
Meghalaya	-	-	-
Mizoram	-	-	-
Nagaland	-	-	-
Tripura	-	-	-
Manipur	30	-	15
Assam	-	-	-

(c) The opium cultivation is carried out in India, in accordance with the Section 8 of the NDPS Act, 1985, for medicinal and scientific purposes only. Details of the opium licitly produced in India during the last three years are as under:

Crop year	Quantity of opium produced at 70Â°C (in MT)	Opium transferred to plant for pharmaceutical purposes at 90Â°C (in MT)
2004-05	457	132
2005-06	434	140
2006-07	346	135

Provisional figures. Results of analysis of suspect category opium are awaited.

As regards the quantity of opium diverted for clandestine purpose, the details of opium seizures made during the last three years are as under:
Year Quantity of opium seized (in kilogram)

2005 2009
2006 2826
2007 (upto 30 June) 649
(d) India is a signatory to the 1988 UN Drug Convention, the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The cultivation, production, manufacture and use of drugs to an adequate amount is permitted only for medical and scientific purposes.

At present opium cultivation is permitted in India only in the tracts notified in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The General Conditions for grant of licence for opium cultivation are notified every year by the Government of India to prevent illicit cultivation, production and manufacture.

(e) The illicit opium cultivation destroyed (including in the North-Eastern States) during the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (upto 31.7.2007) is 31 acre, 617 acre and 19,877 acre respectively.